

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 27, 2006. Claims 1 to 32 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, 25 and 32 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1 to 32 contain allowable subject matter and for confirmation, in a telephone conversation, that all claims would be allowable if Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, 25, and 32 were rewritten to overcome the rejections.

Claims 1 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner alleged that “communication medium,” recited in the preamble of independent Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, 25, and 32, is directed to software. Without conceding the correctness of this analysis, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24, 25, and 32 to recite a “communication network” instead of a “communication medium”. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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